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### Remarks

Claims 12-21 are presently pending and under examination. Claims 12, 17, 19 and 21 have been amended herein to describe the claimed invention with further particularity.

The specification has been amended on page 1 to update the status of the parent application, as requested at page 2 of the current Office Action (Paper No. 4). Applicant respectfully requests entry of the amendment and removal of the objection to the specification.

Claim 12 has been amended to indicate that the detectable label is attached to the specific binding reagent. Support for the amendment to claim 12 can be found throughout the specification, for example, at page 15, lines 1-7. Claim 12 has also been amended to remove the term "the" from the phrase "the colorimetric determination" to properly reflect the lack of antecedent recitation of "colorimetric determination."

Claim 17 has been amended to recite the phrase "thereby determining the concentration of said first and said second analyte." This phrase relates back to the preamble and indicates that determination of the responses in the first and second zones is used to determine the concentration of said first and said second analytes. Support for the amendment to claim 17 can be found throughout the specification, for example, at page 15, lines 12-20.

Claims 19 and 21 have been amended to recite the term "deoxypyridinoline," which was referred to only by the abbreviation Dpd prior to the present amendment. Support for the amendment to claims 19 and 21 can be found, for example, at page 16, lines 4-6.

Claim 20 has been amended to second analyte's observed concentration is corrected based on comparison to the observed concentration of the first analyte. Support for the amendment to claim 20 can be found throughout the specification, for example, at page 13, line 33, to page 14, line 5.

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The above-proposed amendments serve to clarify the elements already recited and do not change the scope of the presently pending claims. Furthermore, as set forth herein, the amendments are supported by the specification as originally filed and do not add any new matter. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests entry of the amendments.

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**Regarding the Telephonic Interview on February 2, 2004**

Applicant's representative thanks the Examiner for the courtesy and guidance extended during the telephone interview on February 2, 2004. During the interview, Applicant's representative and the Examiner discussed each basis for the pending rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. In particular, each of the Examiner's concerns with regard to the alleged lack of clarity was addressed and consensus reached with regard to amendments that would cure the Examiner's concerns and define the invention with further particularity. Claims 12, 17, 19 and 21 are amended above as discussed during the February 2, 2004, interview.

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**Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph**

The rejection of claims 12-21 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter Applicant regards as the invention respectfully is traversed.

Applicant respectfully submits that the above-proposed amendments, which were indicated to cure the alleged lack of clarity in the telephonic interview on February 2, 2004, render moot the rejection. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests removal of the rejection of claims 12-21 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter Applicant regards as the invention.

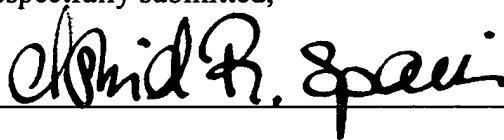
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Conclusion

In light of the Amendments and Remarks herein, Applicant submits that the claims are now in condition for allowance and respectfully request a notice to this effect. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney with any questions related to this application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Astrid R. Spain", is written over a horizontal line.

Date: March 1, 2004

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